

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please AMEND the claims as indicated in the listing of claims below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the Pending Application. The claims are marked to indicate the changes made with deletions indicated by strikethroughs and additions indicated by underlining.

1. (Currently amended) A needlestick prevention device for an injection device having a hollow needle, comprising: a sheath having a first member for attachment to the injection device and a second member slidable longitudinally relative to the first member to expose or to cover the needle, and a spring ~~means~~-biasing the second member to cover the needle, the first and second members having interengaging ~~guide~~guides ~~means~~ and ~~locking~~locks ~~means~~, ~~characterised~~ characterized in that the ~~guides~~ ~~means~~ include a first guide part operative to allow free longitudinal sliding movement of the second member relative to the first member, and a second guide part operative on movement by manual relative rotation of the first and second members and following release of a force urging the second member to expose the needle, in which the spring ~~means~~-urges the second member to cover the needle and to operate the ~~locking~~ ~~means~~lock to retain the second member covering the needle.

2. (Currently amended) A needlestick prevention device according to claim 1, in which the guide ~~means~~-comprises at least one ~~groove~~ ~~means~~ on one of the first and second members, and a corresponding projection on the other of the members which slides in the ~~groove~~ ~~means~~.

3. (Currently amended) A needlestick prevention device according to claim 2, in which two grooves ~~means~~ and projections are provided, arranged in diametral opposition.

4. (Previously presented) A needlestick prevention device according to claim 1, in which the second member slides inside the first member.

5. (Currently amended) A needlestick prevention device according to claim 2, in which the or each groove ~~means~~ is provided on the radially exterior surface of the second member and each projections on the radially interior surface of the first member.

6. (Currently amended) A needlestick prevention device according to claim 1, in which in the or each guide ~~means~~ the first guide part comprises a first groove extending longitudinally of the second member.

7. (Previously presented) A needlestick prevention device according to claim 1, in which the second guide part comprises a second groove extending longitudinally of the second member.

8. (Currently amended) A needlestick prevention device according to claim 7, in which the second groove is parallel to the first, and spaced from it such that a relative rotation of 30° of the members will move the projection from the first groove into the second groove.

9. (Currently amended) A needlestick prevention device according to claim 8, in which the ~~lockinglock means~~ comprises a permanent locking recess formed as part of the second groove, in which the projection is received.

10. (Previously presented) A needlestick prevention device according claim 9, in which the first groove is provided with a temporary locking recess in which the projection is received.

11. (Previously presented) A needlestick prevention device according to claim 10, in which in the temporary locking position the second member is slightly less extended from the first member than in the permanent locking position.

12. (Currently amended) A needlestick prevention device according to claim 2, in which the or each groove ~~means~~ has a further longitudinal groove with an initial locking recess.

13. (Previously presented) A needlestick prevention device according to claim 2, in which the grooves and projections are so shaped as to allow relative rotation of the first and second members in only one direction.

14. (Previously presented) A needlestick prevention device according to claim 13, in which the grooves have one radial wall and one curved wall, with the projections being of complementary shape.

15. (Currently amended) A needlestick prevention device according to claim 1, in which the spring ~~means~~ comprises a compression spring acting between the inner end of the second member and an abutment on the first member.

16. (Previously presented) A needlestick prevention device according to claim 15, in which the spring also provides an additional locking mechanism when the second member is in its permanent locking position.

17. (Previously presented) A needlestick prevention device according to claim 16, in which the additional locking mechanism comprises an oversize turn of the spring, adapted to be received in a radial groove in the first member when the second member is in its permanent locking position.

18. (Previously presented) A needlestick prevention device according to claim 17, in which the spring is also arranged so that the oversize turn tends to enlarge on relative rotation of the two members.

19. (Previously presented) A needlestick prevention device according to claim 1, in which the injection device is a syringe additionally comprising a barrel.

20. (Previously presented) A needlestick prevention device according to claim 19, in which the first member is attached to the syringe by a luer slip connection to a hub at the forward end of the syringe barrel.

21. (Previously presented) A needlestick prevention device according to claim 19, in which the first member is attached to the syringe by a luer lock connection to a hub at the forward end of the syringe barrel.